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Attorney Docket No. P21987

In re application of : David FARCOT

Application No. : 10/083,492

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Group Art Unit : 3618

Filed : February 27, 2002

Examiner : Christopher Bottorff

For : ASSEMBLY FOR RETAINING A BOOT ON A GLIDING BOARD

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a **Appeal Brief** (in triplicate) in the above-captioned application.

Small Entity Status of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a previously filed statement.  
 A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.  
 An Information Disclosure Statement, PTO Form 1449, and references cited.  
 No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

Claims After Amendment	No. Claims Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Small Entity		Other Than A Small Entity	
			Rate	Fee	Rate	Fee
Total Claims: 40	*40	0	x 9=	\$	x 18=	\$ 0.00
Indep. Claims: 6	**6	0	x 43=	\$	x 86=	\$ 0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims Presented			+145=	\$	+290=	\$ 0.00
Appeal Brief Filing Fee				\$		\$330.00
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\* If less than 20, write 20

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Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-0089 in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

A check in the amount of \$330.00 to cover the filing fee is included.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.

Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, including any required extension of time fees in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for extension of time for its timely submission (37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3)).

James L. Rowland  
Reg. No. 32,674

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : David FARCOT et al. )  
Appln. No. : 10/083,492 ) Group Art Unit 3618  
Docket No. : P21987 ) Examiner Christopher Bottorff  
Customer No. : 7055 ) Confirmation No. 8439  
Filed : February 27, 2002 )  
Title : ASSEMBLY FOR RETAINING A )  
BOOT ON A GLIDING BOARD )

**APPEAL BRIEF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This appeal is from the examiner's final rejection of October 16, 2003, a Notice of Appeal having been timely filed on April 12, 2004. The time period for filing this reply brief extends to Monday, June 14, 2004.

**A. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST**

The real party in interest for the invention is SALOMON S.A., of Metz-Tessy, France.

**B. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

There are no related appeals or interferences which would directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

**C. STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-11, 13, 15-19, 21-38, 40, and 41 are pending.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16-18, 23-25, 28-30, 35-38, 40, and 41 stand finally rejected.

Claims 5, 8, 11, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, and 31-34 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter, but are objected to for depending upon rejected claims.

**D. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

A first amendment, filed on February 17, 2004, subsequent to the mailing of the final rejection, was denied entry, as indicated in the Advisory Action mailed March 17, 2004.

A second amendment, in response to the final Office action, was filed on April 12, 2004.

A second Advisory Action, mailed April 27, 2004, indicated that the second amendment would be entered for purposes of appeal. By entry of the second amendment, claims 14, 39, and 42 have been canceled.

## E. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention is directed to an assembly for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus 2, such as a gliding board or, more particularly, such as a snowboard. (See specification, paragraph 0003, lines 1-2 thereof, on page 1.) For convenience, reference will be made hereafter to a "snowboard," although such reference is not intended to be limiting beyond that which is recited in the claims.

The boot retention assembly 1, or binding, is attached to the snowboard by means of a plurality of screws 30, 31, 32, 33 (see Figs. 1, 2, 4, and paragraph 0027, lines 1-3 thereof, on page 6 of the specification) or 72, 73, 74, 75 (see Figs. 5, 6, and paragraph 0051, lines 1-4, on pages 9-10 of the specification) extending through the base 3 of the assembly and into the snowboard, more particularly into threaded bushings 38, 39, 40, 41 (see Figs. 1, 4, and paragraph 0028, lines 1-2, on page 6 of the specification) that are located in the upper surface of the snowboard.

The base 3 of the retention assembly is provided with at least two elongated holes. In the illustrated embodiments, there are four elongated holes 34, 35, 36, 37 (see Figs. 1-4 and paragraph 0027, lines 1-3, on page 6 of the specification) or holes 77, 78, 79, 80 (see Figs. 5, 6, and paragraph 0051, lines 3-4, on page 10 of the specification). In the assembly of the illustrated embodiments, the base includes a through-opening 23 and a disk 20 (see Figs. 1-4 and paragraphs 0023-0024 on pages 5-6 of the specification) or a disk 70 (see Figs. 5, 6 and paragraphs 0050-0051 on pages 9-10 of the specification) is fitted. The aforementioned screws 30-33 (or 72-75) extend through the elongated holes 34-37 (or 77-80) of the disk and into the

bushings 38-41, respectively. The holes are elongated and parallel and shown to be aligned in pairs so that the position of the disk and that of the assembly 1 can be adjusted relative to the board. (See paragraph 0030, lines 1-3, on page 6 of the specification.)

For the purpose of reducing the time needed for mounting and adjusting the position of the assembly on the snowboard, and for simplifying the assembly of the retention assembly to the snowboard (see paragraph 00013, lines 1-3 thereof, on page 3 of the specification), the invention provides for a plate 50 (see Figs. 1-4 and paragraph 0033, lines 1-2, on page 7 of the specification) or a plate 90 (see Figs. 1-4 and paragraph 0053, lines 1-3, on page 10 of the specification) that is positioned to slide relative to the base 3, or relative to the disk 20, 70. According to a particular embodiment (see Fig. 1), the plate can slide within a cavity 55 in the bottom of the base/disk or within a cavity 95 (see Fig. 5) in the top of the base/disk.

According to the invention, the plate 50, 90 includes at least two holes through which at least two screws can extend. In the illustrated embodiment of Figs. 1-4, for example, the plate 50 includes four such holes 51, 52, 53, 54 (see paragraph 0036, lines 1-3, on page 7 of the specification) and the embodiment of Figs. 5 and 6 includes holes 91, 92, 93, 94 (see paragraph 0054, lines 1-3, on page 10 of the specification), which are arrayed in a pattern that corresponds to that of the bushings 38-41 (see Fig. 1 and paragraph 0028, lines 1-2, on page 6 of the specification).

The screws 30-33 (Figs. 1-4) or 72-76 are forcibly rotatable for passing through the plate 50 or plate 90, respectively (see paragraphs 0041-0042, on page 8 of the specification, and paragraphs 0061-0062, on page 11 of the specification, as well as paragraph 0066, lines 8-9, on page 12 of the specification).

By virtue of the screws extending within respective ones of the plurality of holes 51-54 (or 91-94) of the plate, when the user displaces one of the screws 30-33 (or 73-76) and positions it over one of the bushings 38-41, all of the screws are thereby displaced simultaneously and each can thereby be positioned over a respective one of the bushings. (See paragraph 0046, lines 1-5 thereof, on page 9 of the specification.) Therefore, all of the screws can be pre-positioned, i.e., aligned, with a respective bushing, by the manipulation of a single one of the screws.

In addition, by virtue of each of the screws being positioned within the holes of the plate, such as being screw-threadably engageable with such holes, the screws are retained with the assembly and are ready for manipulation to affix the assembly to the snowboard, i.e., the relative sizes of the screws and the holes of the plate provide a means for retaining the screws on the plate. (See paragraph 0039, lines 1-3 thereof, on page 8 of the specification, and paragraph 0059, lines 1-3 thereof, on page 11 of the specification.)

## F. ISSUES ON APPEAL

1. Whether Claims 35-38, 40, 41 Fail to Comply with the Written Description Requirement of 35 USC §112, First Paragraph
2. Whether Claims 6, 38, and 41 Fail to Comply with 35 USC §112, Second and Sixth Paragraphs, by being Indefinite for Failing to Particularly Point out and Distinctly Claim the Subject Matter which Appellants Regard as the Invention
3. Whether Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16-18, 23-25, 28-30, 35-38, 40, and 41 are Unpatentable Under 35 USC §103(a)

**G. GROUPING OF CLAIMS**

For the purpose of this appeal only, claims 1 and 3 can be considered to stand or fall together; claims 7, 9, 24, 25 can be considered to stand or fall together; and claims 13, 16, 17, 29, 30 can be considered to stand or fall together.

**H. ARGUMENT****1. Claims 35-38, 40, 41 Comply with the Written Description Requirement of 35 USC §112, First Paragraph**

Claim 35 (which depends from independent claim 1), claim 36 (which depends from independent 7), claim 37 (which depends from independent claim 13), and independent claims 38 and 40, specify that the "single plate" (referring, *e.g.*, to a plate such as plate 50 or 90 mentioned in the summary of the invention, above) has a "predetermined size and shape" (such as described in Appellants' specification and shown in Appellants' drawing) and which is "the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape" (as expressed in claims 35-37, and expressed similarly in claims 38 and 40, *viz.*, "said plate being the one and only plate of said assembly having said predetermined size and shape").

The rejection is based upon an alleged failure to comply with the written description requirement of 35 USC §112, first paragraph, and is expressed as follows:

... the second plate that does not have the predetermined size and shape is not supported by the original specification. Thus, the limitations that attempt to distinguish the single plate from another plate based on size and shape represent new matter.

Appellants respectfully submit that this rejection can be based only upon a misunderstanding of the requirement imposed by the written description requirement of 35 USC §112, first paragraph, *i.e.*, that of a requirement for a *literal exactitude* between claims and original disclosure. In view of this misunderstanding, the reversal of the rejection is requested.

Contrary to the standard upon which the claims at issue stand rejected, compliance with the written description requirement does *not* require "[t]he subject matter of the claim [to be] described literally (*i.e.*, using the same terms or *in haec verba*) in order for the disclosure to satisfy the description requirement." See *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (MPEP), Section 2163.02, page 2100-172 (Rev. 1, Feb. 2003).

The foregoing quotation is taken from *In re Smith*, 481 F.2d 910, 178 USPQ 620 (CCPA 1973), which was cited with favor in *In re Wright*, 866 F.2d 422, 9 USPQ2d 1649 (Fed. Cir. 1989), in which the court reversed a rejection affirmed by the Board of Appeals, based upon an alleged failure to comply with the written description requirement of §112, first paragraph.

In *Wright*, in the context of an invention directed to a method of forming images with photosensitive powder particles, the text of the original specification had not included the literal description of the powder particles being "not permanently affixed" to a support, although the phrase had been added by amendment. In finding support for the added phrase, the court relied

upon a showing in a drawing of a "cleaner means" for removing powder from a drum and various parts of the text referring to powder being deposited on a support and subjecting the powder to a rupturing force and to the particles being removed from a support.

In its affirmance, the Board had been concerned that the aforementioned phrase was open to a different interpretation. In reversing the Board, however, the Federal Circuit observed that the Board's concern (*i.e.*, that the phrase "was open to a different interpretation") had been directed to the *scope* of the phrase rather than to the support for it. In fact, the Federal Circuit remarked: "We deem this to be an irrelevant inquiry."

Similarly, in *In re Smythe*, 178 USPQ 279, 285 (CCPA 1973), the court quoted from its earlier decision (*In re Reynolds*, 443 F.2d 384, 170 USPQ 94, 98 (1971)), which had quoted with approval the following from an opinion in *Technicon Instruments Corp. v. Cole Instruments, Inc.*, 255 F.Supp 630, 150 USPQ 227 (N.D.Ill. 1966), aff'd., 385 F.2d 391, 155 USPQ 369 (7th Cir. 1967):

By disclosing in a patent application a device that inherently performs a function, operates according to a theory, or has an advantage, a patent applicant necessarily discloses that function, theory or advantage *even though he says nothing about it*. The application may later be amended to recite the function, theory or advantage without introducing prohibited new matter. (emphasis added)

As explained in MPEP, §2163.02 (Rev. 1, Feb. 2003):

Under *Vas-Cath, Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 935 F.2d 1555, 1563-64, 19 USPQ 1111, 1117 (Fed. Cir. 1991), to satisfy the written description requirement, an applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of the invention .... The test for sufficiency of support ... is whether the disclosure ... 'reasonably conveys to the artisan that the inventor had possession at the time of the later claimed subject matter.' (citations omitted)

With the foregoing as background, Appellants submit that in the instant case a determination is to be made as to whether the rejected claims 35-38, 40, and 41 reasonably convey to the artisan that the Appellants had possession of the claimed invention at the time the instant application was filed. In making such determination, as noted by the CCPA in *Smythe*, it can be taken into account that if the disputed subject matter relates to a function, theory, or advantage, an applicant can be found to have necessarily disclosed such function, theory, or advantage even though the disclosure "says nothing about it." And, further, as noted by the Federal Circuit in *Wright*, the fact that a disputed subject matter might be "open to different interpretations" goes to the *scope* of the phrase rather than to issue of compliance to the written description requirement of §112, first paragraph, and an inquiry into such interpretations is deemed an "irrelevant inquiry."

Now, the subject matter in dispute, according to the rejection, is "that the single plate is the only plate of the assembly having the predetermined size and shape." In claim 35, *e.g.*, it is specified that "said single plate has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate

is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape."

As mentioned above, the observation that "the disclosure does not distinguish the single plate from the second plate based upon size and shape" is correct only in the limited sense that the *literal text* of the specification does not distinguish the single plate from a second plate based upon size and shape.

However, as in *Smythe*, despite Appellants' specification having said "nothing about it," *i.e.*, the single plate being distinguished from a second plate based upon size and shape, Appellants had possession of the subject matter of the rejected claims.

That is, as Appellants have explained previously during prosecution, the invention of the rejected claims encompasses the use of a *single* plate, *i.e.*, one and only one such plate. According to the invention, by virtue of the assembly having all of the screws extending through a *single plate*, the user can position all of the screws for mounting the retention assembly upon a sports apparatus, such as a snowboard, in a single manipulation. As a result, the function and advantage of the invention in such mounting and adjusting of the retention assembly relate to less time consumed and a simpler positioning of the retention assembly on the board.

The observation in the rejection that "the second plate that does not have the predetermined size and shape is not supported by the original specification" is, as the Federal Circuit commented in *Wright*, "an irrelevant inquiry." Indeed, Appellants' invention as recited in the rejected claims provide for *there being no second plate*. Thus, the fact that there is no second plate of a particular size and shape is not beyond Appellants' disclosure of the rejected

claims of their being no second plate at all. As a consequence, Appellants had possession of their being no second plate having the size and shape as recited in the rejected claims.

Accordingly, because Appellants had possession of the disputed subject matter, no prohibited new matter is contained within the rejected claims and the rejected claims are in compliance with the written description requirement of 35 USC §112, first paragraph. Therefore, the reversal of the rejection is requested.

## **2. Claims 6, 38, and 41 Comply with 35 USC §112, Second and Sixth Paragraphs**

Claims 6, 38, and 41 stand rejected "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention."

Appellants have reviewed the explanation of the rejection concerning the so-called "means limitations" appearing in claims 6, 38, and 41. Although the rejection refers to "the claims" (*i.e.*, claims 6, 38, and 41) being indefinite, Appellants submit that the rejection fails to identify with clarity any particular aspect of the limitations contained in the rejected claims which render the claims indefinite.

First, Appellants agree with the observation contained within the explanation that the means for retaining screws on the plate only connect the plate to the disk, in the context of the invention, when the base is not affixed to the sports apparatus if the plate is disposed beneath the base or disk (*i.e.*, when the plate, disk, *etc.*, are oriented with the base upright as in Fig. 1, for example). If the plate were to be disposed above the base or disk, the means would only retain the screws on the plate and would not retain the plate with respect to the disk; that is, if

the disk were to be inverted, the plate could fall by gravity and would not be retained by means of the screws.

In every case, however, the retaining means (as embodied, *e.g.*, by the relative dimensions of the screws and the holes of the plate) retain the screws with respect to the plate, as disclosed, *e.g.*, in paragraphs 0011, 0039, 0059, and claim 1, as originally filed.

Appellants acknowledge, as they had in section B.3 of their remarks contained in their reply of August 18, 2003, *viz.*, "[i]n a number of dependent claims (claims 2, 8, 15, 33, and 34, *e.g.*), Applicants call for the plate to be located on a lower portion of the disk, or in a cavity in the lower surface of the base or disk."

However, Appellants did not indicate that the plate is disposed *only* on the lower surface of the base or disk in the referenced claims. Nor did Appellants indicate that the plate is disposed in the lower surface of the base or disk only in *other* claims. The parent claims of claims 2, 8, 15, 33, and 34, however, encompass embodiments of the invention in which the plate is disposed on the lower surface of the base or disk, or in a cavity of the lower surface of the base or disk.

Because the metes and bounds of the rejected claims can be determined with reasonable precision, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

**3. The Rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16-18, 23-25, 28-30, 35-38, 40, and 41 as Being Unpatentable Under 35 USC §103(a) Should be Reversed**

Appellants request that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16-18, 23-25, 28-30, 35-38, 40, and 41, under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over KELLER et al. (U.S.

Patent No. 5,909,893, hereinafter "KELLER") in view of VITALI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,380,031, hereinafter "VITALI") should be reversed at least for the following reasons.

**a. A Single Plate, and the One and Only Plate**

Each of independent claims 1, 7, and 13 includes the limitation that the assembly of the invention includes a "*single plate*." Both of independent claims 38 and 40 include the limitation that the assembly includes a "plate being the *one and only* plate of said assembly having said predetermined shape." Neither KELLER nor VITALI disclose a boot retaining assembly that includes a *single plate*, and neither discloses an assembly having a plate that is the *one and only* plate of a predetermined size and shape.

In contrast, KELLER provides a first pair of screws 8 that extend through a pair of holes in a first plate 12 and a second pair of screws 8 that extend through a pair of holes in a second plate. *The screws 8 of KELLER's disclosed retaining apparatus do not extend through a single plate.* Further, VITALI provides no teaching or suggestion to supply this deficiency of KELLER.

According to the invention, by virtue of having all of the screws extend through a single plate, the user (*i.e.*, such as a snowboarder or a technician, for example) can position all of the screws for mounting the assembly upon a snowboard (or other sports apparatus) by manipulating merely a single one of the screws relative to the board/apparatus. As a result, the mounting and adjusting operations are less time-consuming and simpler and the positioning of the retention assembly on the board is easier. Neither VITALI nor KELLER teach or suggest this.

In the rejection, KELLER is described as having "two generally rectangular plates 12" and that "[e]ach plate includes two holes 13 extending through a thickness of the plate ...."

Thus, KELLER discloses at least *two plates*, whereas in rejected independent claims 1, 7, and 13, Appellants claim *a single plate*, whereas in rejected claims 38 and 40, Appellants claim a plate being the *one and only plate* having a predetermined size and shape, and Appellants' specification clearly describes the advantage that the single plate of the rejected claims provides over the prior art, which includes the disclosure of KELLER.

Beginning on page 9 of the final Office action, in the section of the Office action entitled "Response to Arguments," arguments are presented in support of the rejection of independent claims 1, 7, and 13, despite Appellants' recitation of a *single* plate. These arguments are addressed immediately below.

i. **Ordinary Meaning of "Single"**

A. **Dictionary Definitions**

In the second complete paragraph of page 9 of the final Office action, it is contended that "the ordinary meaning of the word 'single' is not limited to the narrow definition cited by Applicants."

While the word "single" might include various definitions according to several dictionaries, in the context of Appellants' disclosure the meaning of the term, even according to such dictionaries, is clearly different from that upon which the examiner relies in contriving the rejection at issue.

In support of the rejection, reliance is had upon a definition from a dictionary entitled *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary*, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1994,

viz., "separate from others" and "distinct."

No explanation is offered in the referenced definition why the examiner believes that one particular definition, which is not even the first definition listed in the cited dictionary, is appropriate, nor why other definitions given in the cited dictionary can be ignored.

Neither is other evidence offered in the rejection to support the contention that Appellants' definition is "narrow" and not representative of the ordinary meaning of the word "single."

In contrast with the slight evidence offered in support of the rejection, Appellants have attached hereto the title page, the copyright page, and page 1086 of *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary*, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1988. The Examiner's definition appears on page 1086 as the *fourth* definition of the word "single."

The *first* and *second* definitions for the term "single" in that dictionary are "1. Unaccompanied by another or others : SOLE <a *single* survivor> 2.a. Consisting of one part or form <a *single* layer> <a *single* standard of quality> b. Consisting of one alone <I had a *single* thought, which was to survive."

Thus, *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary*, cited in support of the rejection in the Office action, supports Appellants' position.

As further evidence in support of Appellants' position, they offer the following definitions, *including the first definitions*, of the word "single" taken from three additional dictionaries.

In *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, Fourth Ed., Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 2000, the first two definitions of the word "single" (on page 1625) are: "1. Not accompanied by another or others; solitary. 2a. Consisting of one part, aspect, or

section: *a single thickness; a single serving.* b. Having the same application for all; uniform: *a single moral code for all.* c. Consisting of one in number: *She had but a single thought, which was to escape.*"

In *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language*, Second Ed., William Collins Publishers, Inc., U.S.A., 1980, the first two definitions of the word "single" (on page 1694) are: "1. one only; one and no more; individual. 2. without another or others; alone; solitary."

In *Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language*, New Deluxe Ed., Random House Value Publishing, Inc., Gramercy Books, New York, 1996, the first three definitions of the word "single" (on page 1785) are: "1. only one in number; one only; unique; sole; *a single example.* 2. of, pertaining to, or suitable for one person only; *a single room.* 3. solitary or sole; lone: *He was the single survivor.*"

The cited definitions, taken from four dictionaries, including that cited in support of the rejection, provide ample evidence that Appellants have used the term "single" in its ordinary and customary manner. Accordingly, the rejection should be reversed.

The single (*i.e.*, as in "one and only one") example provided in the rejection, taken from the aforementioned Riverside University dictionary, is given *without regard to context*. That is, the meaning of the word "single" offered in support the rejection, *viz.*, "separate from others" and "distinct" is believed to relate merely to a particular grammatical usage (unrelated to the usage made by Appellants), as evidenced by the example given in definition 4a of *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, *i.e.*, "4a. Separate from others; individual and distinct: *Every single child will receive a gift.*"

That is, the term "single" means "separate and distinct" in the context of identifying things/people (*i.e.*, "children" in the given example) separately, rather than as a group.

At least for the reasons given above, the rejection's reliance upon a contrivance, not supported by the context given by Appellants' disclosure, nor the ordinary and customary usage of the word "single," is improper and, therefore, the rejection should be reversed.

#### **B. Word Usage by the USPTO**

In addition to the foregoing, regarding the meaning that should be accorded the word "single" in the context of Appellants' disclosure, Appellants bring the following example to the attention of the Board at least for demonstrating an instance in which, based upon an even weaker case, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has taken the position that a particular expression, namely, the expression/word "a", should be understood, in a particular context, to have the meaning that Appellants are advancing here.

That is, in MPEP §804, the USPTO supports the interpretation of 35 USC §101 as precluding the grant of more than one patent per invention on the following logic, now reduced to a form paragraph (*viz.*, Form Paragraph No. 8.30):

A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added).

The origin of this reasoning is found in *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957), cited with approval by the USPTO in the quotation and form paragraph cited above. Therein, the CCPA explained that "35 U.S.C. 101, like its predecessor R.S. 4886, provides [that] an inventor may obtain *a* patent for his invention." Immediately following, the court explained that "[t]here is no statutory provision for granting of a plurality of patents on a *single* (emphasis added) invention, and this court had repeatedly held that if two patents are to be granted there must be two inventions."

Thus, the USPTO relies upon the CCPA's construction of the expression "a patent" to mean "a *single* patent." Further, the word "single" in the expression "single patent" has been construed as having the same meaning advocated by Appellants.

Further, if the instant rejection were to stand, it would be a curious inconsistency that the USPTO did not see a need, in its formulation of the aforementioned form paragraph, to explain the logic of its construction of the meaning of the term "a" or the term "single." Obviously, the USPTO believes its usage of the word "single," in a context similar to that of Appellants' claims, is not indefinite.

Lastly, Appellants doubt that the USPTO itself would be as insolent as to construe the term "single" in the way that serves its ends (to support its interpretation of a statutory provision), and then object to Appellants' construction of the same word in the same way, particularly when there is ample support for Appellants' construction and that Appellants are "on record" as explaining their usage of the term which differs from that relied upon in the rejection.

ii. **Appellants' Intent/Transitional Phrase**

In the third paragraph beginning on page 9 of the final Office action, it is contended that "Applicants' intent in the meaning of the word 'single' is unclear" and that the fact that the word "single" in claims 1, 7, and 13 "is qualified by the broad transitional phrase 'comprising' rather than a narrow phrase such as 'consisting of' ... suggests that 'single' is not intended to exclude the presence of additional plates."

Appellants submit that that contention is wrong.

The transitional phrase "comprising" is used (in claim 1, for example) as follows: "... the assembly further *comprising* a single plate ...." Clearly, the substitution of the term "consisting" in place of the term "comprising" there, in claim 1, would be incorrect. Appellants would assume that the claim, had the term "consisting" been substituted in the same location in the claim, would have been rejected on a number of grounds, inasmuch as the assembly has not been disclosed as being limited merely to the plate. In fact, if the term "consisting" had been used in that location, the term "single" would be redundant/unnecessary.

It is not the term "single" that is qualified by the transitional term "comprising"; instead, it is the term "assembly" that is qualified by the term "comprising."

iii. **Claims 35, 36, 37 Distinguishing "Additional" Plates by Size and Shape**

Also in the third paragraph beginning on page 9 of the final Office action, it is contended (beginning with the final line of page 9) that "dependent claims 35, 36, and 37 distinguish the single plate from additional plates based upon size and shape" and that [t]his claim differentiation suggests that 'single' is not intended to exclude the presence of additional plates."

Again, Appellants submit that that contention is wrong.

There is an alternate reason for the wording chosen in claims 35, 36, and 37. For example, had Appellants specified, in claims 35, 36, and 37, merely that "the assembly does not include a second plate," the examiner, in determining whether a would-be-prior-art document comes within the scope of such a claim, might take the position that it would be necessary to determine whether such would-be-prior-art document that could be characterizable as a "plate" -- *whether or not* such "plate" is shaped like the "first" plate.

As an example, Appellants note that KELLER refers to his disk as a "fastening *plate*" (see column 2, lines 45-46). However, the plate as described in claims 35, 36, and 37, and as supported by Appellants' disclosure, avoids any consideration as to whether such "fastening *plate*" of KELLER would fall within the scope of such a claim. For example, the "single" plate, such as that labeled 50 in the same embodiment, is differently sized and shaped relative to the disk 20.

**b. Retaining "Means" in Claims 1, 6, 38, and 41**

The end of Appellants' claim 1 calls for "means for retaining the screws on the plate." Additionally, Appellants' claims 6, 38, and 41 call for "means for retaining the screws on the plate and for connecting the plate to the disk when the base is not affixed to the sports apparatus."

The rejection includes an acknowledgement that KELLER does not disclose a retaining means for retaining the screws on the plate and that a secondary teaching is required, *viz.*, VITALI.

VITALI discloses a device for assembling an accessory, such as the base of a binding, upon a ski and, more specifically, a device that includes an arrangement by which screws are held in their holes when the base is placed on the ski.

In VITALI no slidable plate is disclosed and there is no need to move the screws in position along elongated holes relative to the base. Further, in VITALI, there is no disk having such elongated holes.

Appellants submit that it would not have been clear to one skilled in the art how either of the thin plates 12 of KELLER could have been modified to have incorporated the structures taught by VITALI for the purpose of holding KELLER's screws relative to the plates 12.

In addition, even if one were able to have utilized the teachings of VITALI in the apparatus of KELLER, one would have screws held in the holes of the plates 12, but one would *not* be able to realize the objective of VITALI, *viz.*, holding screws relative to the base as the base is placed upon the ski. That is, the plates 12 would be free to become loose relative to the fastening plate 1 upon which the plates 12 are supported.

Consequently, any suggestion for modifying KELLER's apparatus by means of the teachings of VITALI can only originate improperly with Appellants' disclosure.

On page 10 of the final Office action, it is contended that "there is no need to for Vitali et al. to teach a slidable plate or movable screws since this structure is already taught by Keller et al. Vitali et al. is relied upon simply to teach the common retaining means structure in a retaining assembly of a sports apparatus."

If VITALI is relied upon simply to teach the common retaining means structure in a retaining assembly of a sports apparatus, the combination of KELLER and VITALI fails to teach or suggest Appellants' invention. For example, what teaching or suggestion is provided by VITALI "to retain the screws on the plate" (paraphrased from claim 1) or "to retain the screws on the plate and to connect the plate to the disk when the base is not affixed to the sports apparatus" (paraphrased from claims 6, 38, and 41)?

Clearly, neither KELLER nor VITALI provides any disclosure of ensuring the retention of the plate to the sports apparatus if the base is not fixed to the sports apparatus, *i.e.*, snowboard or ski, respectively.

**c. The Screws are "Forcibly Screwed" Into the Plate in Claims 23 and 28**

In claims 23 and 28, which depend from claims 7 and 13, respectively, Appellants specify that all of the screws are "forcibly screwed through said respective ones of the holes of the plate."

There is no disclosure in KELLER that would teach or suggest that any of the screws 8 bear a relationship with the holes of the plates 12 that would enable the screws to be "forcibly screwed" therein. Further, there would appear to be no need, nor any expressed advantage to be gained, from such relationship.

By contrast, by having the screws "forcibly" screwed into the holes of the plate, as specified in Appellants' claims 23 and 28, the screws are retained by the plate and, further, in the embodiment of Figs. 1-4, the screws and the plate are retained together with the disk.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection of claims 23 and 28 should be reversed for reasons additional to those given above with regard to parent claims 7 and 13.

**d. Plate on Lower Portion of Disk in Claim 2**

In claim 2, which depends from claim 1, Appellants call for the plate to be located on a lower portion of the disk. In the first complete paragraph on page 6 of the Office action previous to the final Office action, *i.e.*, the Office action of May 16, 2003, it had been explained that this orientation (presumably modified from that disclosed by KELLER) "represents an obvious reversal of parts."

This comment has not been repeated in the rejection of claim 2 of the final Office action. However, a comment is made in the first complete paragraph on page 9 of the final Office action, although not attributed to the rejection of any particular claim, that "[t]he lower surface of cavity 11 represents a lower portion of the disk within the scope of the claims."

Claim 2 specifies that the plate "is located on the lower portion of the *disk*." The lower surface of the cavity 11 of KELLER's disk 1 does not appear to be located even in the lower *half* of the disk. Appellants submit that it would not be properly characterized as being location "on the lower portion of the disk."

That is, the lower surface of cavity 11 of KELLER is not a *lower portion of a disk*, as specified in Appellants' claim 2.

In this regard, a "surface" is not a portion; a surface is only a two-dimensional aspect of something. Second, surface 11 is not in a lower portion of "fastening plate 1" of KELLER. Thus, in what sense, can the surface 11 of KELLER be regarded as a "lower portion" of the disk?

In view of the foregoing, the rejection of claim 2 should be reversed for reasons additional to those given above with regard to parent claim 1.

## I. CONCLUSION

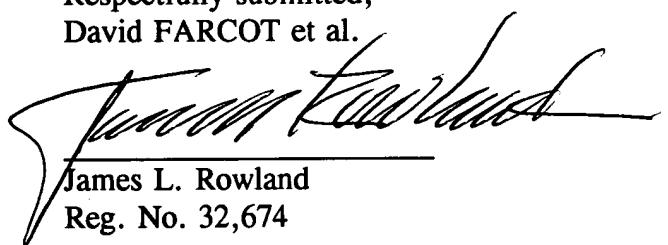
For the reasons advanced above, Appellants submit that the grounds of rejection from which Appellants appeal are erroneous and should be reversed.

This appeal brief is being submitted in triplicate, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.192(a).

A check is enclosed in the amount of \$330.00 for payment of the fee for filing an appeal brief, as set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(c). No additional fee is believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,  
David FARCOT et al.



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Attachments:

- page 1086 of *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary*, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1988
- page 1625 of *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, Fourth Ed., Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 2000
- page 1694 of *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language*, Second Ed., William Collins Publishers, Inc., U.S.A., 1980
- page 1785 of *Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language*, New Deluxe Ed., Random House Value Publishing, Inc., Gramercy Books, New York, 1996

APPENDIX

Claim 1. An assembly for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base provided to receive a sole of the boot, a disk provided to retain the base on the sports apparatus, the disk having at least two elongated holes, parallel to one another, the elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk, and at least two screws each extending through respective ones of the elongated holes, the assembly further comprising a single plate parallel to the disk, the plate being slidable along lengths of the elongated holes, at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate, each of said at least two screws extending through a respective hole of the plate, and means for retaining the screws on the plate.

Claim 2. A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the plate is located on a lower portion of the disk.

Claim 3. A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 4. A retaining assembly according to claim 3, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 6. An assembly for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base provided to support a sole of the boot, the base being adapted to be affixed to the sports apparatus;

a disk provided to retain the base on the sports apparatus, the disk having at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk;

at least two screws, said screws provided to extend through respective ones of the elongated holes of the disk;

a plate provided to be positioned parallel to the disk and slidable along a surface of the disk, at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate;

means for retaining the screws on the plate and for connecting the plate to the disk when the base is not affixed to the sports apparatus, all of the at least two screws provided to extend through respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 7. An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot;

a disk provided to retain the assembly on the snowboard, the disk having at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head; the two screws extending through respective ones of the two elongated holes of the disk, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of the screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 9. A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 10. A retaining assembly according to claim 9, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity of the disk has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 13. An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, said assembly comprising:  
a base adapted to be secured onto the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot, the base comprising:  
a circular opening through a thickness of the base; and  
a circular disk nested in the circular opening for rotation within the circular opening;

at least two elongated holes extending through the disk, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head; the two screws extending through respective ones of the two elongated holes of the base, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of said screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 16. A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is positioned above the disk.

Claim 17. A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 18. A retaining assembly according to claim 17, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity of the disk has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 23. A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein all of the at least two screws are sized, relative to respective ones of the holes of the plate, to be forcibly screwed through said respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 24. A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is made of plastic and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 25. A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is made of metal and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 28. A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein all of the at least two screws are sized, relative to respective ones of the holes of the plate, to be forcibly screwed through said respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 29. A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is made of plastic and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 30. A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is made of metal and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 35. A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein said single plate has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape.

Claim 36. A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein said single plate has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape.

Claim 37. A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein said single plate has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape.

Claim 38. An assembly adapted to retain a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the sports apparatus and adapted to support a sole of the boot, said base comprising:

a through opening; and

a disk supportable above said through opening, at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of said disk, each of said two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a plate having a predeterminate size and shape, said plate being the one and only plate of said assembly having said predeterminate size and shape;

said plate being slidably positionable relative to said base in the direction of said elongated holes, said plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of said plate;

a plurality of screws, each of said screws having a single predeterminate size and shape to extend through a respective one of said elongated holes of said base, through a respective one of said holes of said plate, and into an upper surface of the sports apparatus to secure said base onto the sports apparatus;

said plurality of screws comprising means for retaining said plate connected to said base when said plurality of screws are not screwed into the sports apparatus.

Claim 40. An assembly adapted to retain a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the sports apparatus and adapted to support a sole of the boot, said base comprising:

a through opening; and

a disk supportable above said through opening, at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of said disk, each of said two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a plate having a predeterminate size and shape, said plate being the one and only plate of the assembly having said predeterminate size and shape;

said plate being slidably positionable relative to said base in the direction of said elongated holes, said plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of said plate;

a plurality of screws, each of said screws having a single predeterminate size and shape to extend through a respective one of said elongated holes of said base, through a respective one of said holes of said plate, and into an upper surface of the sports apparatus to secure said base onto the sports apparatus;

said base being positionable between a disassembled position, whereby the retaining assembly is not secured onto the sports apparatus, and an assembled position, whereby the retaining assembly is secured onto the sports apparatus;

in said assembled position of the retaining assembly, every screw extending into the upper surface of the sports apparatus extends through said plate of the assembly.

Claim 41. A retaining assembly according to claim 40, wherein said plurality of screws comprise means for retaining said plate connected to said base when said plurality of screws are not screwed into the sports apparatus.

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### Usage Guide

You'll find two types of usage notes at the end of each entry: one for problem terms and one for common terms. The first type of usage note provides information about the meaning of a term, while the second type provides information about how to use a term correctly.

In the main part of the book, there are also usage notes for some words, such as "all right," "all right," and "all right."

**all right** adv. 1  
rect <Your con-

5. Without a doubt <...>  
not acceptable to write **all right** as the single form **aingot**.

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is the maximum displacement,  $\phi$  is the initial phase or angular displacement at  $t = 0$ , and  $k$  is a constant equal to  $2\pi$  times the frequency of the oscillation.

**simple honors** pl. n. Three honors in trump or three aces at no-trump held by the same side in bridge.

**simple interest** n. Interest paid only on the original principal, not on the interest accrued.

**simple machine** n. MACHINE 1b.

**simple microscope** n. A microscope having one lens or lens system, as a magnifying glass or hand lens.

**simple-minded** (sim'pəl'mɪnd'ɪd) adj. 1. Not sophisticated : ARTLESS. 2. Stupid; silly. 3. Mentally defective. —**simple-mindedly** adv. —**simple-mindedness** n.

**simple pendulum** n. PENDULUM 1.

**simple sentence** n. A sentence having no coordinate or subordinate clauses, as *The dog growled*.

**Simple Simon** n. [After Simple Simon, a character in a nursery rhyme.] A fool.

**simple sugar** n. A monosaccharide.

**simpleton** (sim'pətən) n. [*< SIMPLE*.] A fool.

**simplex** (sim'plēks) adj. [Lat. *simplex*, simple.] Denoting a system of telegraphy in which only one message may be sent in either direction at one time.

**simplicity** (sim'plis'itē) n., pl. -ties. [ME *symplicite* < OFr. < Lat. *simplicitas* < *simplex*, simple.] 1. The quality, state, or fact of being simple. 2. Absence of luxury or showiness. 3. Absence of affectation or pretense. 4. Lack of good sense or intelligence: FOOLISHNESS.

**simplify** (sim'plif'ī) vt. -fied, -fying, -fies. [Fr. *simplifier* < Med. Lat. *simplificare*: Lat. *simplus*, simple + *facer*, to make.] To make simple or simpler. —**simplicity** n. —**simplifier** n.

**simplicity** (sim'pliz'ēm) n. [Fr. *simplicisme* < OFr. *simple*, simple.] The tendency to oversimplify an issue by ignoring complexities. —**simplicity** (sim'plis'tik) adj. —**simplicity** adv.

**simply** (sim'plē) adv. 1. In a simple way: PLAINLY. 2. Foolishly. 3. Merely: only. 4. Absolutely: altogether <*simply ludicrous*>. 5. Frankly: candidly <You are, quite simply, incompetent>.

**simply connected** adj. Of, being, or characterized by a mathematical surface that is divided into two separate parts by every simple closed curve within it.

**simply ordered** adj. Having any three mathematical elements transitively related and any two elements equal or connected by an asymmetric relationship.

**simula-cra** (sim'yə-lä'kra, läk'ra) n. pl. of SIMULACRUM.

**simula-cre** (sim'yə-lä'kör, läk'ör) n. Archaic. A simulacrum.

**simula-crūm** (sim'yə-lä'krōm, läk'rm) n., pl. -era (-lä'krə, -läk'ro). [Lat. < *simulare*, to simulate < *similis*, like .] 1. An image or representation. 2. An unreal or vague semblance.

**simu-lar** (sim'yə-lär, läär') Archaic. —n. One that simulates: SIMULATOR. —adj. Simulated; sham.

**simu-late** (sim'yə-lāt') vt. -lated, -lat-ing, -lates. [Lat. *simulare*, *simulat*- < *simili*, like .] 1. To have or take on the appearance, form, or sound of: IMITATE. 2. To make a pretense of: FEIGN <*simulate* an interest in a conversation>. —adj. (-lit, -lät'). Simulated. —**simulator** n.

**simu-lation** (sim'yə-lā'shən) n. 1. The act or process of simulating. 2. An imitation. 3. A false appearance.

**simu-lator** (sim'yə-lā'tor) n. One that simulates, esp. a device that generates test conditions approximating actual or operational conditions.

**simul-cast** (sim'ul-käst', sim'əl-) vt. -cast-ed, -cast-ing, -casts. [SIMUL(TANEOUS) + (BROAD)CAST.] To broadcast simultaneously, as by FM radio and television. —**simul-cast** n.

**simul-taneous** (sim'əl-tē'ns, sim'əl-) adj. [Lat. *simul*, at the same time + *E-*aneous, as in instantaneous.] 1. Occurring, existing, or carried out at the same time. 2. Math. Collectively restricting the values of a set of variables <*simultaneous equations*>. —**simul-taneous-ly** adv. —**simul-taneous-ness**, si'mul-ta-ne'i-ty (-tə-nē'itē, -nēs') n.

**sin<sup>1</sup>** (sin) n. [ME *sinne* < OE *synn*.] 1. Transgression of a religious or moral law. 2. Estrangement from God as a result of breaking God's law. 3. An offense, violation, fault, or error. —vi. **sinned**, **sinning**, **sins**. 1. To violate a religious or moral law. 2. To commit an offense or violation.

**sin<sup>2</sup>** (sēn, sin) n. [Heb. var. of *shin*, the letter shin.] The 21st letter of the Hebrew alphabet. —See table at ALPHABET.

**sin-an-thro-pus** (si-nān'-thrō-pəs, sī, si-nān'-thrō-pəs, sin'ān-) n. [NLat. *Sinanthropus*, genus name: *SINO* + *anthropus*, human being.] An extinct hominid primate of the genus *Sinanthropus*, which includes the Peking man.

**sin-a-pism** (sin'ə-piz'ēm) n. [Fr. *sinapisme* < LLat. *sinapismus* < Gk. *sinapismos*, use of a mustard plaster < *sinapizein*, to apply a mustard plaster < *sinapi*, mustard.] A mustard plaster.

**since** (sins) adv. [ME *sinnes*, contraction of *sithenes* < OE *sidðan*.] 1. From then until now or between then and now <left home and hasn't been there since>. 2. Before now: AGO <long since forgotten>. —prep. From a specified time in the past <has not been here since Monday>. —conj. 1. During the time after which <They have not been back since they graduated>. 2. Continuously from

the time when <They have not called since they left>. 3. As a result of the fact that: INASMUCH AS <Since you're not interested, I won't tell you about it.>

**sincere** (sin'sir) adj. -cerer, -cerest. [Lat. *sincerus*.] 1. Not feigned or affected: TRUE <*sincere apologies*>. 2. Presenting no false appearance: HONEST <*a sincere believer*>. 3. Archaic. Pure: unadulterated. —**sincerely** adv. —**sincere** ness n. —**sincerity** (sīr'ē-tē) n.

**sinciput** (sin'sə-püt) n., pl. **sinciputs** or **sincipi-ta** (sin-sip'ē-tə) [Lat. : semi-, half + *caput*, head.] 1. The upper half of the cranium, esp. the anterior portion above and including the forehead. 2. The forehead. —**sincipi-tal** (sīp'ē-təl) adj.

**Sindhi** (sin'dē) n., pl. **Sindhis** or **dhis**. [Ar. *Sindi*.] 1. a. The predominantly Moslem people of Sind. b. A member of this people. 2. The Indic language of Sind. —**Sindhi** adj.

**sine** (sīn) n. [Med. Lat. *sinus* < Lat. *curve*.] 1. The ordinate of the endpoint of an arc of a unit circle centered at the origin of a Cartesian coordinate system, the arc being of length  $x$  and measured counterclockwise from the point  $(1, 0)$  if  $x$  is positive or clockwise if  $x$  is negative. 2. The function of an acute angle that is the ratio of the opposite side to the hypotenuse in a right triangle.

**sine-cure** (sīn'ē-kyoōr', sīn') n. [*< Med. Lat. size cura*, without care of souls.] 1. An ecclesiastical benefice not attached to the spiritual duties of a parish. 2. A position or office requiring little or no work but providing a salary. —**sin-e-curism** n. —**sin-e-curist** a.

**sine curve** The graph of the equation  $y = \sin x$ . —**sine die** (sīn'ē dī', sīn'ā dī') adv. [Lat. without a day.] Without a day specified for a future meeting: INDEFINITELY <Parliament was dismissed sine die.>

**sine qua non** (sīn'ē kwā nōn', nōn', sīn'ē kwā nōn') n. [Lat. without which not.] An essential element.

**sine-w** (sīn'yoō) n. [ME *sinew* < OE *sinu*.] 1. A tendon. 2. Vigorous muscular strength and power. 3. often **sinews**. The source of mainstay of vitality and strength.

**sine wave** n. Physics. A waveform with deviation that can be expressed as the sine or cosine of a linear function of time or space or both.

**sine-wy** (sīn'yoō-ē) adj. 1. Consisting of or being like sinew. 2. Lean and muscular. 3. Strong: vigorous.

**sin-ful** (sin'fəl) adj. Characterized by or full of sin: WICKED <*sin-deeds*> <*sinful thoughts*>. —**sin-fu-ly** adv. —**sin-fu-lous** n.

**sing** (sing) v. **sang** (sāng), **sung** (sūng), **singing**, **sings**. [ME *sgen* < OE *singan*.] vi. 1. To utter a series of sounds or words in musical tones. 2. To vocalize songs. 3. To produce or have the effect of melody: LILT. 4. To produce musical sounds when played <made the violin sing>. 5. To make a high whine <The machine sang>. 6. To be filled with a buzzing sound <The great hall sang with voices>. 7. To proclaim or extol something in poetry. 8. Slang. To give information or evidence against someone. —vt. 1. To render tones with musical inflections of the voice <The messenger sang the telegram>. 2. To produce the musical sound of. 3. To intone; chant. 4. To proclaim, esp. in verse <sang our praises>. 5. To bring to a specified state by singing <sang the child to sleep>. —**sing out** To shout out loudly. —n. A gathering of people for group singing —**sing-a-ble** adj.

**sing-a-long** (sing'ə-lōng', lōng') n. A songfest.

**singe** (sing) vt. **singed**, **singe-ing**, **singes**. [ME *senget* < OE *senjan*.] 1. To burn superficially: SCORCH. 2. To burn the ends of. 3. To burn off the feathers or bristles of by subjecting briefly to flame. —**singe** n. —**singer** (sing'ər) n.

**singer** (sing'ər) n. 1. A person who sings, esp. a trained or professional vocalist. 2. A poet. 3. A songbird.

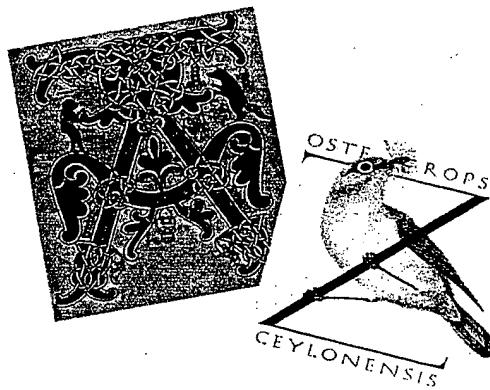
**Sin-gha-lese** (sing'gə-lēz', -lēs') also **Sin-ha-lese** (sin'hā-lēz') n., pl. **Singhalese** also **Sinhalese**. [Skt. *Simhala*, Sri Lanka + -ESE.] 1. A people constituting the major portion of the population of Sri Lanka. 2. The Indic language of the Singhalese that is the chief language of Sri Lanka. —adj. Of or relating to the Singhalese or their language.

**single** (sing'gəl) adj. [ME *sngle* < OFr. < Lat. *singulus*.] 1. Unaccompanied by another or others: SOLE <a single survivor>.

2. a. Consisting of one part or form <a single layer> <a single standard of quality>. b. Consisting of one alone <had a single thought, which was to survive>. 3. Undivided: unbroken. 4. Separate from others: DISTINCT. 5. Designed to accommodate only one person: *single room*. 6. a. Unmarried <single people>. b. Of or pertaining to celibacy. 7. Bot. Having only one rank or row of petals <single flower>. —n. 1. A separate unit: INDIVIDUAL. 2. An accommodation for one person. 3. One who is unmarried <a bar for singles>. 4. A one-dollar bill. 5. a. **Baseball**. A one-base hit. b. One run in cricket. c. A golf match between two players. d. **singles**. A tennis match between two players. —vt. 1. To choose from among others <singled you out for this great honor>. 2. **Baseball**. To cause (a baserunner) to score.

*The*  
**American**  
**Heritage® Dictionary**  
*of the English Language*

FOURTH EDITION



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1. English language—Dictionaries

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turer who patented (1851) a sewing machine capable of stitching continuous stitches.

**Singha-lese** (sing'ga-lēz', -lēs') *n. & adj.* A variant of **Sinhalese**.  
**sing•gle** (sing'gal) *adj.* 1. Not accompanied by another or others; solitary. 2a. Consisting of one part, aspect, or section: *a single thickness; a single moral code for all*. b. Having the same application for all; uniform: *a single thought, which was to escape*. 3. Not divided; unbroken: *a single slab of ice*. 4a. Separate from others; individual and distinct: *Every single child will receive a gift*. b. Having individual opponents; involving two individuals only: *single combat*. 5a. Honest; undisguised: *a single adoration*. b. Wholly attentive: *You must judge the contest with a single eye*. 6. Designed to accommodate one person: *a single bed*. 7a. Unmarried. b. Lacking a partner: *a single parent*. c. Relating to the unmarried state: *enjoys the single life*. d. Of or relating to celibacy. 8. Botany Having only one rank or row of petals: *a single flower*. ♦ *n.* 1. One that is separate and individual. 2. An accommodation for one person, as in a hotel. 3a. An unmarried person. b. *singles* Unmarried persons considered as a group: *a bar for singles*. 4. A one-dollar bill. 5a. A phonograph record, especially a forty-five, having one song on each side. b. A song on one of these sides. c. A song, often from a full-length album or compact disk, that is released for airplay. 6. *Baseball* A hit by which a batter reaches first base safely; a one-base hit. 7. *Sports* a. A hit for one run in cricket. b. A golf match between two players. c. A tennis or badminton match between two players. Often used in the plural. d. *singles* A competition in which individuals compete against each other, as in rowing or figure skating. ♦ *v.* -gled, -gling, -gles —*tr.* 1. To choose or distinguish from others. Often used with *out*: *We singled her out from the list of applicants*. 2. *Baseball* a. To cause (a base runner) to score or advance by making a one-base hit: *singled him to second*. b. To cause the scoring of (a run) by a one-base hit. —*intr.* *Baseball* To make a single. [Middle English *sngle*, from Old French, from Latin *singulus*. See **SEM-** in Appendix I.] —*sin'gle•ness n.*

**single blind** *n.* A testing procedure in which the administrators do not tell the subjects if they are being given a test treatment or a control treatment in order to avoid bias in the results. —*sin'gle-blind'* (sing'gl-blīnd') *adj.*

**single bond** *n.* A covalent bond in which one electron pair is shared by two atoms.

**single-breasted** (sing'gal-brēst'tid) *adj.* Closing with a narrow overlap and fastened down the front with a single row of buttons: a *single-breasted suit*.

**single-cell protein** (sing'gal-sēl') *n. Abbr. SCP* A protein extracted from cultured algae, yeasts, or bacteria and used as a substitute for protein-rich foods, especially in animal feeds.

**single cross** *n. Genetics* The hybrid of two inbred lines. It can be represented as AB, the product of the cross A × B, where A and B represent inbred lines.

**single entry** *n.* A system of bookkeeping in which a business keeps only a single account showing amounts due and amounts owed.

**single-family** (sing'gal-fā'mē-ē, -fā'mē-lē) *adj.* Relating to or being a dwelling designed for one family only: *a single-family home; single-family occupancy*.

**single file** *n.* A line of people, animals, or things standing or moving one behind the other. Also called *Indian file*. —*single file adv.*

**single-foot** (sing'gal-fōt') *n.* A rapid gait of a horse in which each foot strikes the ground separately; the rack. No longer in technical use. ♦ *intr.v.* -foot•ed, -foot•ing, -foots To go at the single-foot. —*sin'-gle-foot'er n.*

**single-hand** (sing'gal-hānd') *tr.v.* -hand•ed, -hand•ing, -hands To sail (a boat) without the help of others: *"a business executive who single-hands her own small cruising cutter"* (Tony Gibbs). —*sin'-gle-hand'er n.*

**single-hand•ed** (sing'gal-hān'did) *adj.* 1. Working or done without help; unassisted. 2. Intended for use with one hand. 3. Having or using only one hand. ♦ *adv.* In a single-handed manner. —*sin'-gle-hand/ed•ly adv.* —*sin'-gle-hand/ed•ness n.*

**single-heart•ed** (sing'gal-hār'tid) *adj.* Sincere and dedicated. —*sin'-gle-heart/ed•ly adv.* —*sin'-gle-heart/ed•ness n.*

**single-hood** (sing'gal-hoo'd) *n.* The state of being unmarried.

**single-is•sue** (sing'gal-ish'oo) *adj.* Of, relating to, or concerned with a single public issue, especially a controversial one, to the exclusion of all other issues: *single-issue groups; single-issue politics*.

**single knot** *n.* See *overhand knot*.

**single-lens reflex** (sing'gal-lēnz') *adj. Abbr. SLR* Of or designating a form of reflex camera in which the reflecting mirror retracts when the shutter is released.

**single-mind•ed** (sing'gal-min'did) *adj.* 1. Having one overriding purpose or goal: *the single-minded pursuit of money*. 2. Steadfast; resolute: *He was single-minded in his determination to stop smoking*. —*sin'-gle-mind/ed•ly adv.* —*sin'-gle-mind/ed•ness n.*

**single-phase** (sing'gal-fāz') *adj.* Producing, carrying, or powered by a single alternating voltage.

**single-s bar** (sing'galz) *n.* A bar patronized especially by unmarried men and women.

**single-sex** (sing'gal-sēks') *adj.* Same-sex.

**single-space** (sing'gal-spās') *v.* -spaced, -spac•ing, -spac•es —*tr.* To type, print, or format (copy) without leaving a blank line between lines. —*intr.* To type, print, or format copy without leaving a blank line between lines.

**single standard** *n.* A set of principles with the same standard for all, especially regarding the sexual behavior of both men and women.

**sin•gle•stick** (sing'gal-stik') *n.* 1. A one-handed fencing stick fitted with a hand guard. 2. The art, sport, or exercise of fencing with such a stick.

**sin•gle•stick•er** (sing'gal-stik'ər) *n.* A sailboat with one mast; a sloop.

**sin•gle•plet** (sing'glit) *n.* 1. Chiefly British A man's jersey undershirt. 2. Physics A multiplet with a single member.

**single tax** *n.* A system by which all revenue is derived from a tax on one thing, especially land.

**sin•gle•ton** (sing'gal-tən) *n.* 1. Games A playing card that is the only one of its suit in a player's hand. 2a. An individual separated or distinguished from two or more of its group. b. An offspring born alone. [From the name *Singleton* (influenced by **SINGLE**).]

**sin•gle•track** (sing'gal-trāk') *adj.* 1. Having just one track: *single-track railway*. 2. Lacking mental range or flexibility; one-track: *a single-track mind*.

**sin•gle•tree** (sing'gal-trē') *n.* See *whiffletree*. [Alteration (influenced by **DOUBLETREE**) of **SWINGLETREE**.]

**sin•gle•wide** (sing'gal-wid') *n.* A mobile home 14 feet (4.3 meters) in width, used as a permanent residence. —*sin'gle-wide' adj.*

**sin•gly** (sing'glē) *adv.* 1. Without the presence of others; alone. 2. Without the help of others; single-handed. 3. One by one; individually.

**sin•ge•song** (sing'sōng', -sōng') *n.* 1. Verse characterized by mechanical regularity of rhythm and rhyme. 2. A monotonously rising and falling inflection of the voice. ♦ *adj.* Monotonous in vocal inflection or rhythm. —*sing'song'y adj.*

**sin•ge•spiel** (sing'spel', zing'shpel') *n.* An 18th-century German musical comedy featuring songs and ensembles interspersed with dialogue. [German : *singen*, to sing (from Middle High German, from Old High German *singan*; see **SENGH** in Appendix I) + *Spiel*, play; see **SPIEL**.]

**sin•gu•lar** (sing'gyü-lär) *adj.* 1. Being only one; individual. 2. Being the only one of a kind; unique. 3. Being beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable. 4. Deviating from the usual or expected; odd. See synonyms at **strange**. 5. *Grammar* a. Of, relating to, or being a noun, pronoun, or adjective denoting a single person or thing or several entities considered as a single unit. b. Of, relating to, or being a verb expressing the action or state of a single subject. 6. *Logic* Of or relating to the specific as distinguished from the general; individual. ♦ *n. Grammar* 1. The singular number or a form designating it. 2. A word having a singular number. [Middle English *singuler*, from Old French, from Latin *singulāris*, from *singulus*, single. See **SINGLE**.] —*sin'gu•lar•ly adv.* —*sin'gu•lar•ness n.*

**sin•gu•lar•i•ty** (sing'gyü-lär'i-tē) *n., pl. -ties* 1. The quality or condition of being singular. 2. A trait marking one as distinct from others; a peculiarity. 3. Something uncommon or unusual. 4. *Astrophysics* A point in space-time at which gravitational forces cause matter to have infinite density and infinitesimal volume, and space and time to become infinitely distorted. 5. *Mathematics* A point at which the derivative does not exist for a given function but every neighborhood of which contains points for which the derivative exists. Also called *singular point*.

**sin•gu•lar•ize** (sing'gyü-lär'iz') *tr.v. -ized, -iz•ing, -iz•es* To make conspicuous; distinguish.

**singular point** *n.* See *singularity* (sense 5).

**sin•gu•la•tive** (sing'gyü-lä'tiv, -lä-tiv) *adj.* Of or relating to a linguistic form or construction that expresses a singular entity, often as opposed to a collective, such as *rice-grain* as opposed to *rice*. ♦ *n.* A singular form or construction. [French *singulatif*, from Latin *singulātum*, *singulātum*, one at a time, singly, from *singulus*, single. See **SINGLE**.]

**singh abbr.** hyperbolic sine

**Sin•ha•la** (sin'hālə), *n., pl. Sinhala or -las* 1. A Sinhalese. 2. The Sinhalese language. [Sinhala *Sinhala*, from Sanskrit *sīnhala*, Sri Lanka, from *sīnhā*, lion (perhaps from the former presence of lions there).]

**Sin•ha•lese** (sing'ha-lēz', -lēs') *n., pl. Sinhalese or Singhalese* 1. A member of a people constituting the majority of the population of Sri Lanka. 2. The Indic language of the Sinhalese that is the chief language of Sri Lanka. ♦ *adj.* Of or relating to Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese, or their language or culture. [Sanskrit *Sīnhalam*, Sri Lanka + **ESE**.]

**Si•ni•cism** (si'ni-siz'm, si'nē-) *n.* A custom or trait peculiar to the Chinese. [From *Sinic*, Chinese, from Medieval Latin *Sinicūs*, from Late Latin *Sīnae*, the Chinese. See **SINO-**.]

**Si•ni•cize** (si'ni-siz', si'nē-) *tr.v. -cized, -ciz•ing, -ciz•es* To make Chinese in character or to change or modify by Chinese influence. —*Si'ni•ci•za•tion (-sī-zā'shən) n.*

**Si•ni•fy** (si'na-fī', si'nā-) *tr.v. -fied, -fy•ing, -fies* To Sinicize. [Late Latin *Sīnae*, the Chinese; see **SINO-** + **FY**.] —*Si'ni•fi•ca•tion (-fī-kā-shən) n.*

**sin•is•ter** (sin'i-star) *adj.* 1. Suggesting or threatening evil: *a sinister smile*. 2. Presaging trouble; ominous: *sinister storm clouds*. 3. Attended by or causing disaster or inauspicious circumstances. 4. On the left side; left. 5. *Heraldry* Situated on or being the side of a shield on the wearer's left and the observer's right. [Middle English *sinistre*, unfavorable, from Old French, from Latin *sinister*, on the left, unlucky.] —*sin'is•ter•ly adv.* —*sin'is•ter•ness n.*

**Synonyms** *sinister*, *baleful*, *malign*. These adjectives apply to what is indicative of or threatens great harm, disaster, or evil. *Sinister* usually implies impending or lurking danger that makes its presence felt by ominous signs or portents: *We heard a sinister laugh from behind the door*. *Baleful* intensifies the sense of menace; it suggests a deadly, virulent, or poisonous quality: *The guard's baleful glare frightened the children*. *Malign* applies to what manifests an evil disposition, nature, influence, or



Isaac M. Singer



single-breasted  
single-breasted blazer

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōo took
ār father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ō paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: ' (primary); ' (secondary), as in dictionary (dik'shō-nēr'ē)

WEBSTER'S  
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TWENTIETH CENTURY  
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## sinecurist

**si'nē-kō-rīst**, *n.* one who has or seeks a sinecure.  
**si'nē-dīvē**, [L.] without (a) day (being set for meeting again); for an indefinite period; as, the assembly adjourned *sine die*.

**si'nē-prōlē**, [L.] in law, without offspring; childless.

**si'nē-quā** (kwā) *non*, [L.] an essential condition, qualification, etc.; an indispensable thing; an absolute prerequisite.

**sin'ew** (-ū), *n.* [ME. *sinewe*; AS. *sionu*.]  
 1. in anatomy, a tendon; the tough fibrous tissue which unites a muscle to a bone.

2. that which supplies power or strength; as, the *sinews* of war.

3. muscular power; strength; force.

**sin'ew**, *v.t.*; sinewed, *pt.*, *pp.*; sinewing, *ppr.*  
 1. to knit strongly together, as with sinews.

2. to strengthen; to supply with or as with sinews; to make robust.

**sin'ew-i-ness**, *n.* the state or quality of being sinewy.

**sin'ew-ish**, *a.* sinewy. [Obs.]

**sin'ew-less**, *a.* without sinews; having no strength or vigor.

**sin'ew-ous**, *a.* sinewy.

**sin'ew-shruftik**, *a.* having the sinews under the belly shrunk by excess of fatigue, as a horse.

**sin'ew-y**, *a.* 1. pertaining to, consisting of, or resembling a sinew; tough; strong.

The *sinewy* thread my brain lets fall.

—Donne.

2. having many or large sinews; as a cut of meat.

3. having good muscular development; as, sinewy shoulders.

4. vigorous; powerful; robust; as, a *sinewy* style of writing.

**sin-fō-niā**, *n.* *pl.* **sin-fō-ni'e**, [It.] in music, same as *symphony*.

**sin'ful**, *a.* full of or characterized by sin; wicked; iniquitous; as, *sinful* men; *sinful* actions.

**sin'ful-ly**, *adv.* in a sinful manner; so as to be sinful.

**sin'ful-ness**, *n.* the quality or state of being sinful.

**sing**, *v.t.*; sang or now rarely sung, *pt.*; sung, *pp.*; singing, *ppr.* [AS. *singan*; akin to G. *singen*, to sing.]

1. (a) to produce musical sounds or notes with the voice, especially in connected series, as in voicing a song; (b) to deliver musical selections vocally, especially as a professional.

2. to use song or verse in description, praise, etc.; as, of thee I sing.

3. to sound somewhat like the singing of a human voice; to produce a musical note or notes, as a songbird, steaming teakettle, wind, etc.

4. to buzz, hum, ring, etc., as the ears, an insect, flying missile, etc.

5. to admit of being sung.

6. to be exultant; to rejoice; as, a sight to make one's heart sing.

7. to confess to a crime, especially so as to implicate others. [Slang.]

to sing out; to speak or call out loudly; to shout. [Colloq.]

**sing**, *v.t.* 1. to render or deliver (a song, musical role, etc.) by singing; to utter with musical inflections.

2. to chant or intone (part of a church service, etc.).

3. to describe, proclaim, extol, celebrate, etc. in or as in song or verse; as, they all sing his praises.

4. to bring to a given state, as sleep, by singing.

5. to accompany, escort, etc. with singing.

**sing**, *n.* 1. a shrill buzzing, whistling, or humming sound; as, the sing of arrows overhead.

2. (a) group singing; (b) a gathering for this purpose. [Colloq.]

**sing'a-ble**, *a.* 1. that can be sung.

2. easy to sing; tuneful; lyrical; melodic.

**singe**, *v.t.*; singed, *pt.*, *pp.*; singeing, *ppr.* [AS. *sengan*, to singe, causative of *singan*, to sing; akin to G. *singen*, to sing.]

1. to burn superficially or slightly.

2. to expose (an animal carcass) to flame in removing bristles or feathers.

3. to burn the nap from (cloth) as a process of manufacture.

4. to burn the ends of (hair) after cutting.

**singe**, *n.* 1. a singeing.

2. a superficial or slight burn.

fate, far, fast, fall, fināl, cāre, at; mete, prey, hēr, met; pine, marine, bird, pin; nōte, mōve, for, atōm, not; moon, book;

## singletree

**sing'le-act'ing engine**; an engine in which the steam acts only against the under side of the piston, the weight of the atmosphere pressing it down again, against the vacuum produced by the condensation of the spent steam. Such engines are now out of date.

**sing'le-act'ing piston**; a piston which is in contact with the fluid upon which it acts on one side only.

**sing'le-act'ing pump**; a pump which delivers liquid at each alternate stroke only, one stroke being spent in drawing or lifting the liquid into the pump, the other in delivering it.

**sing'le-ac'tion**, *a.* designating a firearm whose hammer must be cocked by hand before the weapon can be fired.

**sing'le-bank'ed** (-bankt), *a.* 1. having one oarsman to a thwart.

2. having one bank or tier of oars, as some vessels of former times.

3. having one row of keys, as an organ.

**sing'le-bār**, *n.* a singletree.

**sing'le-breast'ed** (-breast'), *a.* covering the front of the body with only one thickness overlapping just enough to fasten: said of coats, vests, etc.: opposed to *double-breasted*.

**sing'le-en'try**, *a.* having to do with book-keeping by single entry.

**sing'le en'try**, *n.* a system of bookkeeping in which the only account kept is a single one consisting of debts owed to and by the concern in question.

**sing'le-fire**, *a.* not intended to be loaded a second time after firing; having the fulminating material inside the head or base; as, breech-loading cartridge.

**sing'le-foot**, *n.* the gait of a horse in which the legs move in lateral pairs, each foot falling singly and the body being supported alternately upon one foot and two feet; also called *rack*.

**sing'le-foot**, *v.i.* to go with a single-foot gait as horses; also called *rack*.

**sing'le-hand'ed**, *a.* 1. having one hand of workman only.

2. unassisted; by oneself alone; alone.

3. worked or managed by one hand only, as a single-handed sword.

**sing'le-heart'ed**, *a.* having a single or honest heart; without duplicity.

**sing'le-heart'ed-ly**, *adv.* in a single-hearted manner.

**sing'le-mind'ed**, *a.* 1. having a single honest mind or heart.

2. having but one purpose in view.

**sing'le-ness**, *n.* the state or quality of being single.

**sing'le-phāsē**, *a.* in electricity, denoting a phase present in ordinary alternating currents in a simple alternating current system.

**sing'le-phās'er**, *n.* in electricity, a machine that produces a single-pressure wave.

**sing'le-seed'ed**, *a.* containing one seed only.

**sing'le-stick**, *n.* 1. a swordlike stick used for fencing and fitted with a basket hilt to protect the hand.

2. the sport of fencing with such sticks.

3. a wooden sword used in practice in place of the cutlass.

**sing'le-stick'ēr**, *n.* a sailboat, especially a sloop, having but a single mast. [Colloq.]

**sing'let**, *n.* 1. an unlined waistcoat, the opposite of a *doublet*, which is lined. [Archaic.]

2. a man's undershirt or jersey. [Brit.]

**sing'le-tax**, *a.* advocating or having to do with single tax.

**sing'le tax**, *1.* a system of taxation in which all revenue is from a tax on a single object, specifically on land.

2. a tax of this kind.

**sing'le-tōn**, *n.* [from *single*, after proper names ending in -ton].

1. a playing card that is the only one of its suit held by a given player.

2. a single thing, as distinguished from one of a pair, several, etc.

**sing'le-track**, *a.* 1. having only one set of rails; as, a *single-track* trolley or railroad.

2. having a limited scope; narrow; as, *single-track* mind.

Also *one-track*.

**sing'le-tree**, *n.* [a corrupted form of ME. *swingle-tree*, from *swinge*, a swinger, and *tre*, a piece of wood.] the swinging horizontal cross-bar to which the traces or tugs of a harnessed horse are fastened: also called *swingletrees*, *whippletree*, *whiffetree*.

**sing'le-valve**, *n.* which is the *sing'ly*, *adv.* thing; alone.

2. individual; one by one.

3. alone; *v.* unaided.

4. in an *h*.

5. unique; *n.* antelope, K.

**sing'song**, *n.* monotonous.

2. verse, such tone or

**sing'song**, *a.* as sound; as,

**sing'song**, *v.t.* singsong manous, dreary 1

**Sing'spiel** (or which dialog of dramatic the principal Germany of

**sing'ster**, *n.* a sing'gū-lär, *a.* *singulare*; single.]

1. (a) individual; having to do peculiar to o

2. in gram opposed to ;

3. remarkable a man of sin. ments.

4. not comp lying somet

None secon

5. being a parallel; unic

6. in logic, particular th

**singular** pr. which has fe term or a. c. d

**singular suc** of feudal pro distinction to general title.

**singular iter** individual.

**Syn.**—unex rare, unusua tric.

**sing'gū-lär**, *n.* itself.

2. in gram person or the word; oppose

**sing'gū-lär-ist**, *[Obs.]*

**sing'gū-lär-ity**, *singularity*]

1. peculiar a person or ti from all other

istic. 2. th condi

3. a singula

4. particula

tinction. [Obs.

**sing'gū-lär-ize**, *lanizing*, *ppr.*

2. to make

**sing'gū-lär-ly**, or degree no

**singularly** god

2. oddly; si

3. so as to e ber.

**sing'gūl**, *n.* [L

**sing'gūl'ous**, *hiccup*.

**sing'gūl'us**, *n.*

**Sin-hā-lēsē**, *a.* [LL.

Chinese; Sini

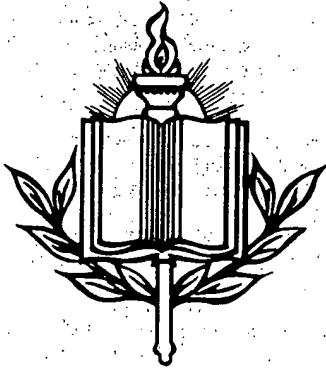
**sin'ic-al**, *a.* p

sines; as a si

**Sin'i-clism**, *n.*

use, byll, brū

# WEBSTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIC UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



The dictionary entries are based on the Second Edition of  
*The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*

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**sing-er** (sing'ər), n. 1. **Isaac Ba-shev-is** (bä shév'is), 1904-91, U.S. novelist and short-story writer (in Yiddish), born in Poland; Nobel prize 1978. 2. **Isaac Mer-rit** (mer'it), 1811-75, U.S. inventor.

\***singh**, Singhalese.

**sing-ha-les-e** (sing'ga lēz', -lēs'), adj., n., pl. -les-e. Sinhalese.

**sing-ing-fish** (sing'ing fish'), n., pl. (esp. collectively) -fish, (esp. referring to two or more kinds or species) -fish-es, midshipman (def. 3). [1880-85, Amer.; SINGING + FISH; so called because of the humming sound it produces with its air bladder]

**sing-ing game'**, a children's game in which the players perform certain actions to the words of a song. [1880-85]

**single** (sing'gəl), adj., v., -gled, -gling, n. —adj. 1. only one in number; one only; unique; sole: a single example. 2. of, pertaining to, or suitable for one person only: a single room. 3. solitary or sole; lone: He was the single survivor. 4. unmarried: a single man. 5. pertaining to the unmarried state: the single life. 6. of one against one, as combat or fight. 7. consisting of one part, element, or member: a single lens. 8. sincere and undivided: single devotion. 9. separate, particular, or distinct; individual: Every single one of you must do your best. It's the single most important thing. 10. uniform; applicable to all: a single safety code for all manufacturers. 11. (of a bed or bedclothes) twin-size. 12. (of a flower) having only one set of petals. 13. Brit. of standard strength or body, as ale, beer, etc. Cf. double (def. 1). 14. (of the eye) seeing rightly. —v.t. 15. to pick or choose (one) from others (usually fol. by out): to single out a fact for special mention. 16. **Baseball**: a. to cause the advance of (a base runner) by a one-base hit. b. to cause (a run) to be scored by a one-base hit (often fol. by in or home). —v.i. 17. **Baseball**: to hit a single. —n. 18. one person or thing; a single one. 19. an accommodation suitable for one person only, as a hotel room or a table at a restaurant to reserve a single. 20. a ticket for a single seat at a theater. 21. Brit. a. a one-way ticket. b. a steam locomotive having one driving wheel on each side. 22. an unmarried person, esp. one who is relatively young. 23. **Baseball**. Also called **one-base hit**, a base hit that enables a batter to reach first base safely. 24. **singles**, (with a singular v.) a match with one player on each side, as a tennis match. 25. **Golf**: two-some (def. 4). 26. **Cricket**: a hit for which one run is scored. 27. **Informal**: a one-dollar bill. 28. a phonograph record usually played at 45 r.p.m. and often having one popular song on each side. 29. the song recorded on one side of a single. 30. Often, **singles**. Textiles. a. reeled or spun silk that may or may not be thrown. b. a one-ply yarn of any fiber that has been drawn and twisted. [1275-1325; late ME (adj.), ME singel < OF *single* individual, single, (pl.) one apiece, deriv. of *sem-* one (see SIMPLEX)]

—Syn. 1. distinct, particular. 3. isolated. 4. unwed. 15. select. 18. individual.

**single-act-ing** (sing'gəl ak'ting), adj. (of a reciprocating engine, pump, etc.) having pistons accomplishing work only in one direction. Cf. **double-act-ing** (def. 1). [1815-25]

**single-ac-tion** (sing'gəl ak'shən), adj. (of a firearm) requiring the cocking of the hammer before firing each shot: a **single-action revolver**. [1850-55]

**single-bar-rel** (sing'gəl bar'əl), n. a gun having one barrel, esp. a shotgun. [1840-50] —**sin'gle-bar'-reled**; esp. Brit., **sin'gle-bar'-relied**, adj.

**single-blind** (sing'gəl blind'), adj. or pertaining to an experiment or clinical trial in which the researchers but not the subjects know which subjects are receiving the active medication or treatment and which are not: a technique for eliminating subjective bias, as the placebo effect, from the test results. Cf. **double-blind**. [1960-65]

**single bond'**, Chem. a chemical linkage consisting of one covalent bond between two atoms of a molecule, represented in chemical formulas by one line or two vertical dots, as C-H or C:H.

**single-breast-ed** (sing'gəl bres'tid), adj. 1. (of a coat, jacket, etc.) having a front closure directly in the center with only a narrow overlap secured by a single button or row of buttons. 2. (of a suit) having a jacket or coat of this type. Cf. **double-breasted**. [1780-1800]

**single bu'oy moor'ing**, Naut. monobuoy.

**single com'bat**, combat between two persons. [1600-10]

**single-cross** (sing'gəl krōs', -kros'), n. Genetics. a cross between two inbred lines. [1935-40]

**single cut'**, Jewelry. simple form of brilliant cut, having eight facets above and eight facets below the girdle, as well as the table, and usually a culet. Also called **eight cut**, Old English cut. [1825-35]

**single-cut** (sing'gəl kut'), adj. noting a file having a series of parallel cutting ridges in one direction only. Cf. **double-cut**.

**single-dig-it** (sing'gəl dij'it), adj. of or denoting a percentage smaller than ten, esp. with reference to rates below that level: **single-digit rates of inflation**.

**single-ended** (sing'gəl en'did), adj. 1. (of a boiler) fired from one end only. 2. Elect. (of a circuit or transmission line) unbalanced, as when one part of a circuit is grounded.

**single en'try**, Bookkeeping. 1. an item noted only once. 2. a simple accounting system noting only amounts owed by and due to a business. Cf. **double entry**. [1820-30] —**sin'gle-en'try**, adj.

**single file'**, a line of persons or things arranged one behind the other; Indian file. [1660-70]

**single-foot** (sing'gəl fōt'), n. 1. rack' (def. 1). —v.i. 2. (of a horse) to go at a rack. [1860-65, Amer.]

**single-hand-ed** (sing'gəl han'did), adj. 1. accomplished or done by one person alone: a **single-handed**

/; single-handed sailing. 2. by one's own effort; unaided. —adv. 3. by oneself; alone; without aid: He did the garage single-handed. [1700-10] —**sin'gle-hand-ed-ness**, n.

**single-hand-ed-ly** (sing'gəl han'did lē), adv. in a single-handed manner; single-handed. [1880-85]

**single-heart-ed** (sing'gəl här'tid), adj. sincere and undivided in feeling or spirit; dedicated; not reflecting mixed emotions: He was single-hearted in his patriotism. [1570-80] —**sin'gle-heart-ed-ly**, adv. —**sin'gle-heart-ed-ness**, n.

**single-hood** (sing'gəl hood'), n. the status of being unmarried. [1830-40; SINGLE + -HOOD]

**single-hung** (sing'gəl hung'), adj. (of a window) having two sashes, only one of which is movable. [1815-25]

**single-knit** (sing'gəl nit'), n. 1. a fabric made on warp knit. 2. a garment made of single-knit.

**sin'gle knot'**. See **overhand knot**. [1925-30]

**single-lens re'flex cam'era** (sing'gəl lenz'). See under **reflex camera**. Abbr.: SLR Also called **sin'gle-lens re'flex**.

**single man'**, Checkers. an individual checker restricted to forward moves, as contrasted with a king.

**single-minded** (sing'gəl min'did), adj. 1. having or showing a single aim or purpose: a **single-minded program**. 2. dedicated; resolute; steadfast: He was single-minded in his concern for truth. [1570-80] —**sin'gle-minded-ly**, adv. —**sin'gle-minded-ness**, n.

—Syn. 2. determined, persevering, inflexible, firm.

**single mod'al**, Transp. modal (def. 3).

**single-name pa'per** (sing'gəl näm'), Banking. commercial paper bearing only the signature of the maker.

**single-ness** (sing'gəl nis), n. the state or quality of being single. [1520-30; SINGLE + -NESS]

**single oc/cupancy**, a type of travel accommodation, as at a hotel, for one person in a room. Cf. **double occupancy**. —**sin'gle-oc-cu-pancy**, adj.

**single-phase** (sing'gəl fāz'), adj. Elect. noting or pertaining to a circuit having an alternating current with one phase or with phases differing by 180°. [1895-1900]

**single point' moor'ing**, Naut. monobuoy. [1975-80]

**single prec'i-sion**, Computers. using one word rather than two or more to represent a number. Cf. **dou-ble precision**.

**single pre'mium**, a single payment that covers the entire cost of an insurance policy. [1875-80]

**single quotes'**, (one pair of single quotation marks, written as ' ') and used esp. for a quotation within another quotation: He said, "I told you to say, 'Open, sesame' when you want to enter the mountain."

**single rhyme'**, a rhyme of monosyllables, as in heart, part.

**single bar'**, a bar or tavern catering to a clientele composed chiefly of single men and women, esp. those seeking a lover or spouse. Also called **dating bar**. [1965-70]

**single sculls'**, a race for sculls each rowed by one oarsman using a pair of oars. Cf. **double sculls**.

**single-sex** (sing'gəl seks'), adj. designated for, pertaining to, or serving only males or only females: a **single-sex college**. [1935-40]

**single-shot** (sing'gəl shot'), adj. (of a firearm) requiring loading before each shot; not having or using a cartridge magazine. [1885-90, Amer.]

**single-space** (sing'gəl spās'), v., -spaced, -spac'ing. —v.t. 1. to type (copy) on each line space. —v.i. 2. to type copy leaving no blank spaces between lines. [1935-40]

**single Span'ish bur-ton**, a tackle having a runner as well as the fall supporting the load, giving a mechanical advantage of three, neglecting friction. See **diag** under **tackle**.

**single stand'ard**, 1. a single set of principles or rules applying to everyone, as a single moral code applying to both men and women, esp. in sexual behavior. Cf. **double standard**. 2. monometallism. [1880-85, Amer.]

**single-stick** (sing'gəl stik'), n. 1. a short, heavy stick. 2. (formerly) a. a wooden stick held in one hand, used instead of a sword in fencing. b. fencing with such a stick. [1765-75; SINGLE + STICK<sup>1</sup>]

**single-stick'er** (sing'gəl stik'ər), n. Informal. a vessel, esp. a sloop or cutter, having one mast. [1885-90; SINGLE + STICK<sup>1</sup> + -ER<sup>1</sup>]

**single-suiter** (sing'gəl süt'ər), n. one-suiter. [single suit + -ER<sup>1</sup>]

**singlelet** (sing'gəl lit'), n. 1. a sleeveless athletic jersey, esp. a loose-fitting top worn by runners, joggers, etc. 2. a single unit; an unpaired or separate item. 3. Chiefly Brit. a man's undershirt or jersey. [1740-50; SINGLE + -ET]

**single tape'**. See under **magnetic tape**.

**single tax'**, Econ. a tax, as on land, that constitutes the sole source of public revenue. [1875-80, Amer.] —**sin'gle-tax'**, adj.

**single tick'et**, Brit. a one-way ticket.

**single-ton** (sing'gəl ton), n. 1. a person or thing occurring singly, esp. an individual set apart from others: a research program involving twins and **singletons**. 2. Cards. a card that is the only one of a suit in a hand. 3. Math. a set consisting of one given element. [1875-80; SINGLE + -TON]

**single-track** (sing'gəl trak'), adj. 1. (of a railroad or

section) having but one set of tracks, so that trains going in opposite directions must be scheduled to meet only at points where there are sidings. 2. having a narrow scope; one-track: He has a single-track mind. [1825-35, Amer.]

**single-tree** (sing'gəl trē'), n. whiffletree. [1835-45, Amer.; var. of SWINGLETREE]

**single-val'ued** (sing'gəl val'yūd), adj. Math. (of a function) having the property that each element in the domain has corresponding to it exactly one element in the range. Cf. **many-valued**. [1875-80]

**sin'gle whip'**. See under **whip** (def. 27).

**sin'gle wick'et**, a rare form of cricket in which only one wicket is used. [1730-40]

**sin'gle wing/back formation**, Football. an offensive formation in which the wingback lines up outside of and about one yard behind an end, the quarterback lines up lateral to the wingback but about midway between the same end and the center, the fullback is three or four yards behind the middle of the line, and the tailback lines up one yard behind the fullback on the other side of the line from the wingback and quarterback. Also called **sin'gle wing'**. Cf. **double wingback formation**. [1905-10, Amer.]

**sin'gly** (sing'gəlē), adv. 1. apart from others; separately. 2. one at a time; as single units. 3. single-handed; alone. [1250-1300; ME singely. See SINGLE, -LY]

**Sing Sing** (sing' sing'), 1. the state prison at Ossining, New York. 2. former name of **Ossining**.

**sing-song** (sing'sōng', -song'), n. 1. verse, or a piece of verse, that is monotonously jingly in rhythm and pattern of pitch. 2. monotonous rhythmical cadence, tone, or sound. 3. Brit. an unrehearsed singing of well-known songs by an audience or other informal, untrained group; a community sing. —adj. 4. monotonous in rhythm and in pitch. [1600-10; SING + SONG]

**sing-spiel** (sing'spiel'; Ger. zing'spiel'), n. a German opera, esp. of the 18th century, using spoken dialogue and resembling ballad opera. [1680-85; < G, equiv. to sing(en) + Spiel play]

**sin'gu-lar** (sing'gyə lar), adj. 1. extraordinary; remarkable; exceptional: a **singular success**. 2. unusual or strange; odd; different: **singular behavior**. 3. being the only one of its kind; distinctive; unique: a **singular example**. 4. separate; individual. 5. Gram. noting or pertaining to a member of the category of number found in many languages that indicates that a word form has one referent or denotes one person, place, thing, or instance, as English boy and thing, which are singular nouns, or goes, a singular form of the verb go. Cf. **dual** (def. 4), **plural** (def. 4). 6. Logic. a. or of pertaining to something individual, specific, or not general. b. (of a proposition) containing no quantifiers, as "Socrates was mortal." 7. Math. a. of or pertaining to a linear transformation from a vector space to itself that is not one-to-one. b. of or pertaining to a matrix having a determinant equal to zero. 8. Obs. private. 9. Obs. single. —n. Gram. 10. the singular number. 11. a form in the singular. [1300-50; ME < L *singularis*. See **SINGULAR-ITY**] —**sin'gu-lar-i-ty**, n. —**sin'gu-lar-i-ty**, adj. —**sin'gu-lar-ness**, n.

—Syn. 1-4. peculiar. 2, 5. bizarre, queer, curious. 3. uncommon, rare. 4. single. —Ant. 1. usual.

**sin'gu-lar-i-ty** (sing'gyə lar'i tē), n., pl. -ties for 2-4. 1. the state, fact, or quality of being singular. 2. a singular, unusual, or unique quality; peculiarity. 3. Math. See **singular point**. 4. Astron. (in general relativity) the mathematical representation of a black hole. [1300-50; ME singularite < LL singularitas. See **SINGULAR-ITY**]

**sin'gu-lar-i-ze** (sing'gyə lar'i zē), v.t., -ized, -iz-ing, to make singular. Also, esp. Brit., **sin'gu-lar-i-se**'. [1580-90; SINGULAR + -IZE] —**sin'gu-lar-i-za-tion** (sing'gyə lar'i zā'shən), n.

**sin'gu-lar point**, Math. a point at which a given function of a complex variable has no derivative but of which every neighborhood contains points at which the function has derivatives. Also called **singularity**. [1885-90]

**sin'gu-lus** (sing'gələs), n., pl. -tu'ses. Med. a hiccup. Also, **sin'gu-la-tion** (sing'gəlā'shən). [1745-55; < L *sob*, dying breath, hiccup] —**sin'gu-lous**, adj.

**sin'chi** (sing'chē), n. Math. hyperbolic sine. [**SIN(E)** + H(YPERBOLIC)]

**sin-hai-lien** (Chin. shin'hi'lyun'), n. Older Spelling. Xinhaiyan.

**sin-ha-les-e** (sin'hə lēz', -lēs'), adj., n., pl. -les-e for 2. —adj. 1. of or pertaining to Sri Lanka, its native people, or their language. —n. 2. a member of the Sinhalese people. 3. an Indic language that is the language of the majority of the population of Sri Lanka, including Colombo. Also, **Sinhalese**.

**sin-i-cism** (sin'ē siz'əm), n. something characteristic of or peculiar to the Chinese; a Chinese method, custom, or usage. [1890-95; Sino Chinese (< ML Sinicis < MGk Sinikós, equiv. to LGk Sin(ai) the Chinese + -ikos -ic) + -ISM; see **SINO**-]

**sin-i-cize** (sin'ē siz'), v.t., -cized, -ciz-ing, to make Chinese in character or bring under Chinese influence. Also, esp. Brit., **sin'ci-cise**'. [1885-90; Sino (see **SINO**) + -IZE] —**sin-i-ci-zation** (sin'ē sa zā'shən), n.

**sin-i-ify** (sin'ē fi'), v.t., -fied, -fy-ing, to Sinicize. [1895-1900; < LL *Sin(a)e* the Chinese (see **SINO**) + -IFY] —**sin-i-fi-ca-tion** (sin'ē fi kā'shən), n.

**sin-i-grin** (sin'i grīn), n. Chem. a colorless, crystalline, water-soluble solid,  $K_2C_6H_5NO_2 \cdot H_2O$ , found chiefly in the seeds of the black mustard, that deters some insect predators. Also called **potassium myronate**. [1875-80;

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, cāpē, dārē, pārt, set, équal, if, ice; ox, óver, order, óil, óok, óot, ou, órge, child; sing; shoe; thóat; zh: zh áh in treasure. é = a as in alone, e as in system, i as in easily, o as in gallop, u as in circus; \* as in fire (fīr), hour (ou'r). l and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krādl), and button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.